

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /085 W
-----062189 130032Z /64

R 121610Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3103
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5038

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: XF MO
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS
ON ARAB AFFAIRS

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR ARAB LEAGUE AFFAIRS MOHAMED SAADANI
COMMENTED ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS DURING SEPT. 8 DISCUSSION
WITH EMBOFF.

2. ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IN CAIRO: SAADANI FELT ARAB LEAGUE
SESSION HAD COME OUT WELL, WITH MODERATES PREVAILING. HE
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOROCCO HAD BEEN CRITICIZED BY PALESTINIAN
EXTREMISTS OVER ITS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. (CAIRO
14876 PARA 2). THE "LOW-LEVEL" EXTREMISTS HAD ALSO CRITI-
CIZED GOM FOR RECENT CONTACTS WITH ISRAELIS OF MOROCCAN
ORIGIN AND OVER POLICY OF WELCOMING RETURN OF JEWISH
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EMIGRES. PLO, HOWEVER, WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS CRITICISM
OF MOROCCO AND IN FACT WAS IN FULL ACCORD WITH GOM POLICY
ON JEWS. SAADANI SURMISED THAT EXTREMIST PALESTINIAN
CRITICISM HAD BEEN INSPIRED BY ALGERIANS. FORMER PLO
REPRESENTATIVE IN ALGIERS HAD INITIATED SIMILAR CRITICISM
EARLIER THIS YEAR AND HAD LATER BEEN REMOVED FROM HIS POST
BY PLO HIGH COMMAND FOR UNAUTHORIZED STATEMENTS.

3. SOMALIA: SAADANI NOTED MODERATE ARAB LEAGUE POSITION OF CALLING FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, "INDIVIDUAL ARAB COUNTRIES" (ON WHICH SAADANI COULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT) WERE PROVIDING MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA. HE INDICATED THAT MODERATE ARABS WERE CONCERNED NOT ONLY OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. ACCORDING TO RECENT SOMALI VISITORS TO MOROCCO, SOME SOUTHERN YEMENIS AND ISRAELIS WERE ALSO PRESENT AS ADVISORS IN ETHIOPIA. SAADANI WENT ON TO CASTIGATE QADHAFI FOR HAVING OFFERED HELP TO ETHIOPIA AGAINST ERITREA.

4. LIBYA: ASKED ABOUT QADHAFI'S REPORTED MOVE TOWARD IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB, SAADANI VOICED STRONG SKEPTICISM. (FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI WAS EQUALLY SKEPTICAL IN TALKING WITH AMBASSADOR ON SEPT. 11.) HE NOTED LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OF A RECENT MEETING BETWEEN QADHAFI AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MOROCCAN OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES (BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL) DURING CELEBRATIONS OF LIBYAN REVOLUTION. QADHAFI REPORTEDLY STATED LIBYA WAS NEUTRAL ON SAHARA ISSUE, AGAINST CREATION OF MINI-STATES, AND WAS PROVIDING AID ONLY TO REFUGEES IN TINDOUF. SAADANI FELT QADHAFI WAS TRYING TO LULL MOROCCANS THROUGH MILD LANGUAGE ESPECIALLY GEARED TO MOROCCAN OPPOSITION PARTIES. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, GOM HAD FIRM EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL LIBYAN ARMS AID TO THE POLISARIO. THE POLISARIO HAD ALSO

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BEEN PROVIDED A "HUGE BUILDING" IN TRIPOLI. QADHAFI RECEIVED POLISARIO AND SO-CALLED SAHARA DEMOCRATIC ARAB REPUBLIC OFFICIALS CONTINUOUSLY. THESE ACTS SPOKE LOUDER THAN WORDS. SAADANI ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE OF SIGNIFICANTLY MODERATING QADHAFI'S POLICIES, ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF PLAYING ALONG TO SOME EXTENT TO SEE WHETHER QADHAFI'S WORDS WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO ANYTHING CONCRETE. REGARDING QADHAFI'S REPORTED COMMENT THAT HE HAD INVITATION FROM KING HASSAN TO VISIT MOROCCO BUT COULD NOT DO SO WHILE ARAB BLOOD WAS FLOWING, SAADANI SAID INVITATION HAD BEEN ISSUED LAST YEAR UNDER "SPECIAL" CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT HAD NOT BEEN RENEWED RECENTLY. HE PERSONALLY SAW NO BENEFIT TO BE GAINED FROM A QADHAFI VISIT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, MEETINGS
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Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RABAT05038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770330-0788
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770974/aaaackie.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 51038648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1307493
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS ON ARAB AFFAIRS
TAGS: OCON, XF, MO, SO, LY, ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL, (SAADANI, MOHAMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/51038648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009